

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MARTIN 00108 111858Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1832

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS MARTINIQUE 0108

E.O. /A

TAGS: EAIR,FR,MR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR : SUSPENSION OF PAN AM SERVICE TO CARIBBEAN

REF: PARIS 05868

1. ESPERON'S INQUIRY CLEARLY ORIGINATED WITH BOTH GUADELOUPE AND MARTINIQUE AUTHORITIES INTERESTED IN MAINTAINING AN UNDIMINISHED LEVEL OF US CARRIER FLIGHTS INTO THE FRENCH WEST INDIES. LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR PUSHING INCREASED US TOURISM IN FWI IN COMING YEARS AND ARE DISTURBED WITH ANY DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT PROSPECTS, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE LONG-TERM ECONOMIC PROSPECTS OF THE ISLANDS ARE OTHERWISE LIMITED. A FEW DAYS AGO AN AMERICAN AIRLINES REP TOLD US THAT AA IS FILING FOR PERMISSION TO SERVE ST. MARTIN, POINTE-A-PITRE, AND FORT-DE-FRANCE IF PANAM'S SUSPENSION OF SERVICE IS AFFIRMED, WITH AN EYE TO USING AA DOMESTIC FEEDER ROUTES TO BOLSTER TRAFFIC TO THOSE POINTS.

2. WE HOPE THAT THE USG WILL APPROVE THE AMERICAN AIRLINES APPLICATION. THE ECONOMIC RESOURCES OF THE FWI, AS WELL AS OTHER CARIBBEAN ISLANDS, ARE SO LIMITED THAT IT IS ALMOST MANDATORY THAT TOURISM BE EXPLOITED AS FAR AS POSSIBLE. USG HAS REAL STAKE IN THE PROGRESSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THIS AREA UPON WHICH POLITICAL STABILITY LARGELY DEPENDS. CAA APPROVAL OF AMERICAN AIRLINES APPLICATION IS CLEARLY IN UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR LONG TERM INTERESTS.

SHACKLETON

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Message Attributes

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